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**Computer  
Dictionary**

Third Edition

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**Microsoft Press**

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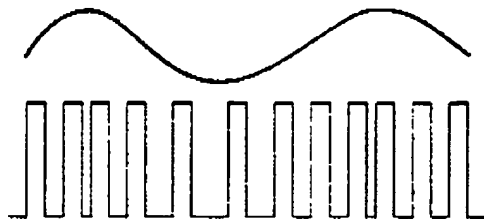
## pulse length modulation

## Python

reflect the information being encoded. See the illustration. *Acronym:* PDM (P'D-M'). Also called pulse length modulation, pulse width modulation.

**pulse length modulation** \puls' length mo-dya-lā'shan, mo-jā-lā'shan\ *n.* See pulse duration modulation.

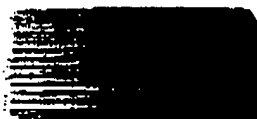
**pulse position modulation** \puls pə-zish'an mo-dya-lā'shan, mo-jā-lā'shan\ *n.* A method of encoding information in a signal by varying the position of pulses. The unmodulated signal consists of a continuous train of pulses of constant frequency, duration, and amplitude. During modulation the pulse positions are changed to reflect the information being encoded. See the illustration. *Acronym:* PPM (P'P-M'). Compare pulse amplitude modulation, pulse code modulation, pulse duration modulation.



Pulse position modulation.

**pulse width modulation** \puls width' mo-dya-lā'shan, mo-jā-lā'shan\ *n.* See pulse duration modulation.

**punched card** \punchd kărd\ *n.* An outdated computer-input medium made of stiff paper that stores data bits in columns containing patterns of punched holes. The method for creating the patterns used for different byte values is called Hollerith coding. See the illustration. See also Hollerith tabulating/recording machine.



Punched card.

**punched-card reader** \punchd'kărd' rē'dă\ *n.* See card reader.

**pure procedure** \pyōōr' prā-sē'jur\ *n.* Any procedure that modifies only data that is dynamically allocated (usually on the stack). A pure procedure cannot modify either global data or its own code. This restriction allows a pure procedure to be called simultaneously by separate tasks. See also reentrant code.

**purge** \purj\ *vb.* To eliminate old or unneeded information systematically; to clean up, as files.

**push** \pōōsh\ *vb.* 1. To add a new element to a stack, a data structure generally used to temporarily hold pieces of data being transferred or the partial result of an arithmetic operation. See also stack. Compare pop. 2. In networks and the Internet, to send data or a program from a server to a client at the instigation of the server. Compare pull (definition 1).

**put** \pōōt\ *vb.* In programming, to write data, typically to a file; in particular, to write a very small unit of data, such as a character.

**PVC** \P'V-C\ *n.* Acronym for permanent virtual circuit. A permanent logical connection between two nodes on a packet-switching network. The PVC appears as a dedicated line to the nodes, but the data can be transmitted on a common carrier. See also common carrier, node (definition 2), packet switching, virtual private network. Compare SVC.

**.pw** \dōr'P-W\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Palau.

**pwd** \P'W-D\ *n.* Acronym for print working directory. The UNIX command for displaying the current directory.

**PWM** \P'W-M\ *n.* Acronym for pulse width modulation. See pulse duration modulation.

**.py** \dōr'P-Y\ *n.* On the Internet, the major geographic domain specifying that an address is located in Paraguay.

**Python** \pī'thon\ *n.* A portable, interpreted, object-oriented programming language developed and freely distributed by its developer. Python runs on many platforms, including UNIX, Windows, OS/2, and Macintosh, and is used for writing TCP/IP applications.

